

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 18th MARCH 2020

Clerk: Mrs Michelle Wroth
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1. Welcome by the chair.
2. Present: Cllr Pillinger, Cllr Waldie, Cllr Smith, Cllr Wroth, Cllr Meek, Cllr Andreae, Cllr Harris, Cllr Cooke, Cllr McKenna
Apologies: Cllr Able
Absent: Cllr Crompton
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 20th June 2019

To receive reports from:

4. **Chairman's Report**

William Pillinger

Covid19 resulted in changes to the way of life for the entire parish, and how the parish council operates. Our initial concerns were of course how the pandemic will affect the parish and what we as local government can do to offer support.

Changes in the way that the PC meets presented challenges, Zoom meetings started in the Spring. For some this has been a step change in not only way we communicate but also the need to learn new skills.

The new way of life has been easier for some councillors but for others it was too difficult to continue to attend the meetings. Consequently, we have seen several changes to the parish council members. Specific email addresses have been set up to ensure compliance, openness, and data protection.

Modernisation of the parish council with a bringing 'up to speed' for compliance has been driven by Michelle, it seems that previous clerks were not very proactive in this area. A lot of extra work required is being completed to ensure we are up to date.

Training of the Clerk and training for councillors has been successful – in fact, the parish councillor training was very good and included members of parish councils around the local area.

As previously stated, our key task was to support local groups and a large amount of support offered to local groups through PC £790 donated using s.137.

Working groups have been created to actively improve village assets, appearance, communication, and the allotments. Great success and a direct thanks to all groups for their efforts.

Social media activity increased, and website improved to counter the removal of notices in the PC notice board for Covid reasons.

Not insignificant CIL funding have been received and plans for investment are underway

Village gates installed to help define the village boundary's and help clam traffic, I think this has helped a little alone with the village speed watch team.

As there is not much for the older children at the playing field a grant has been accepted for £4,958 which will be used to purchase a pair of swings, these will hopefully be installed July/Aug and by the zip wire.

A new fence will be installed to separate the zip wire and swings from the carpark as the current fence need replacing due to its age and to ensure children are kept safe.

The committee does struggle with only limited annual income so the support of the Parish Council to cover the costs of the grass cutting and insurance is appreciated, also the grant aid that is received is needed for its survival. The committee does ask for volunteers to help as it takes lots of man hours to keep it running however without help from volunteers in the future the committee may have to close.

7. Docking Football Club

Parish Clerk on behalf of Lisa Leverett, DRFC

We have had the go ahead to start youth and adult football again on 29th March. The adult league for 20/21 is null and void although they hope to run some cup competitions for what would have been the remainder of the season. Youth football will be extended into June to be able to play all the remaining fixtures. We have some money left over from a wind farm grant from this season, we were going to buy dugouts but then covid arrived. Having looked at dugouts we believe we will need around another £500-£800 to buy something suitable.

Understandably there have been no grant opportunities during covid, we applied for one right at the beginning and were turned down. There is the opportunity to access £99,000 from the FA, we need to show growth and support for the club to enable us to access this, something which Ricky and myself have been looking at. We have been advised that any grant application that we make in the future would be looked on as much more favourable if it is a joint application with the Parish Council. This will show any possible funding source that we have full backing from yourselves. We have also been led to believe by the FA that doing this would also enable us to access supplies VAT free saving around £80,000 on the build. We would not need the Parish Council to do anything apart from allow us to put your name on application, we would be grateful if you could discuss this, as soon as covid is "over" Tim will be looking for funding opportunities again.

8. 1st Docking Brownies

Lynsey Skeates

Due to COVID-19 all 2020 camps and events that had been planned were cancelled, the unit leaders felt that they needed to still provide a weekly meeting for those Brownies that wanted to take part, so they ran weekly zoom meetings. This has meant that the Brownies could still work towards theme awards and take part in new challenges.

In June they took part in a Mid-Summer Sleepover which saw the girls building dens in their homes to sleep in or helping to put tents up in their gardens and sleep in these. With the supervision of guardians, the girls learnt match safety and made s'mores by using the candles they had lit. They celebrated VE Day in their gardens/homes and shared photos of bunting/decorations that they had made.

As the restrictions eased in the autumn the Brownies attended an activity day held at Holkham Hall, where they worked together to find wood to build a fire, learnt how to light a fire using a fire steel and then roasted marshmallows on sticks over the fire. This was the first face to face opportunity the pack had had together, and the cost was covered by part of the donation which had been received from the Parish Council.

Looking forward the Brownies hope to be able to meet again at the Ripper Hall from 12th April with risk assessments still needing to be completed.

The donation that was received in 2020 was much appreciated and without this the future of the group may have been difficult. Part of the funding has been put aside to cover the cost of some of the cancelled events from 2020.

9. Additional reports notified after the publishing of the agenda

Docking Horticultural Society

Parish Clerk on behalf of Clare Hill

The Horticultural Society wanted to just make everyone aware that they have cancelled all their shows for 2021 and hope to be able to run them again next year.

10. General Parish Issues raised by members of the public - None

Meeting closed at 7.19pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____